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FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO

A NEW AND SUCCESSFUL MODE OF TREATING

PILES, FISTULA,

HÆMORRHOIDAL EXCRESCENCES,

TUMOURS, AND STRICTURES,

WITHOUT CUTTING OR CONFINEMENT.

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS CASES.

BEING A FAMILIAR EXPOSITION OF THE PRACTICE OF

S. J. VAN BUTCHELL,

SURGEON-ACCOUCHEUR.

Third Edition, with additional Cases.

L O N D O N :

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PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

SCARCELY six months have elapsed since the first publication of these “Facts and Observations,” yet, so extensive has been the circulation of the work, that I am now called upon to prepare a third edition.

In addition to the pleasure which every author feels in seeing his labours appreciated by the public, I have the gratification of knowing that, through the medium of these pages, numbers of afflicted persons, who were previously ignorant of there being any cure for their distressing complaints (without the painful, and at all times dangerous, operation of the knife), have been induced to seek relief; and many who fancied

PREFACE.

themselves shut out from all hope of recovery, are now rapidly approaching a state of convalescence.

Among the numerous sentiments of approval that have reached me from various quarters, are some from medical and surgical practitioners of great eminence, which are the more gratifying from the circumstance of my being personally unknown to them.

The testimonials with which I have been honoured by the public press, and also several recent cases in which I have been successful, will be found at the end of the present edition.

S. J. VAN BUTCHELL.

16 Percy street, Bedford square. 1838.

ERRATUM.

Page 2, line 16, *for* " Tumours " *read* " These tumours."

INTRODUCTION.

IN the wide circle of suffering which humanity is heir to, there is perhaps no class of diseases more painful and distressing in effect, or more frequent and common of occurrence, than that which forms the topic of the present short treatise. Numerous books of late years have been written on the subject, and some of the ablest surgical writers have contributed their efforts towards the elucidation of the different disorders affecting the rectum and the anus. Much advantage, and a greatly improved treatment of these important diseases, have been the result ; and it might be thought that so much having already been done, would render superfluous the present undertaking ; such an impression, however, will be found, upon a little

examination, to be especially erroneous ; much yet remains to be done—for there are no diseases respecting which more conflicting, arbitrary, and erroneous opinions still prevail ; and the mischiefs naturally arising out of these are the cause of the great incertitude that displays itself in alternate timidity and cruelty of practice which characterises the surgical treatment of these diseases, even in the present day. Moreover, it will be found that the best of the works alluded to are little calculated for the beneficial study of the afflicted themselves ; they have been mostly written with a view to professional display, and are especially diffuse upon such parts of the subject as most readily admit of it ; which, while most interesting to surgeons themselves, afford but little practical information to the general reader. Such, however, has been the rapid spread of information, both general and scientific, among all classes of late, that it would scarcely be possible to find any afflicted individual without a desire for

information on, and a capability of comprehending the nature of his complaint, so far as to be of infinite importance in teaching him what should be pursued, and what shunned, to promote the comfort of a body diseased, or predisposed to disease, and indicating the surest and easiest paths back again to the high road of health.

In compliance with this presumed desire for information, I have been induced to publish the following facts and observations on the diseases of the lower intestines, with a record of some of the many cases that it has fallen to my lot to treat successfully, in a large practice, which, during the last seventeen years of my life, has been devoted exclusively to the cure of those diseases.

I have endeavoured earnestly to divest my pages of all technicalities, so as to render what information they contain available to all; and the only apology I have to offer for obtruding myself so briefly upon the public notice is, that

I believe I have that to communicate which it concerns the public to know, and have not leisure or health to undertake a more elaborate work.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE CAUSES, NATURE, AND TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS OR PILES.

MANY causes may be enumerated as generally concurring to produce an attack of piles: some are to be regarded only in the light of pre-disposing, such as the situation of the blood-vessels of the rectum placed in the lowest part of the great visceral cavity; the veins, unlike others, being without valves, and deriving so little support from the loose, yielding, cellular texture surrounding that gut, are rendered peculiarly liable to become gorged and loaded with blood from various, and often very slight causes; or, they may arise from a disturbed state of the digestive functions, or disease of the organs of digestion, climate, sex, age, and very frequently hereditary predisposition, which I believe to be as decidedly influential in these

complaints as in any of those more generally designated hereditary diseases.

Among the most frequent, and more immediate, or common exciting causes, it may be sufficient to enumerate costive or sluggish bowels, sedentary habits, violent passions of the mind,—more especially of the depressing kind,—the irritation of worms, drastic purging medicines, luxurious habits, and some particular aliments.

In the most common acceptation of the term, hæmorrhoids, or piles, are tumours, which appear at stated or irregular intervals about the anus, or within the rectum, attended sometimes with an effusion of blood.

Tumours have in general been divided into two principal kinds,—the distinction being formed from the circumstance of the effusion ; when this is present they are termed open, or true piles ; in the other case they are called blind piles. The situation of the tumours has also given rise to a further division, into external

and internal. This distinction, as it is generally received, is scarcely worthy of notice, since the tumours formed within are frequently protruded; but if it be applied to the part from which they arise, it is of great importance in the surgical treatment.

The different terms employed by former writers, which were derived from supposed resemblances, appear to have fallen into disuse. In the preceding distinctions the effusion of blood appears to be regarded as a symptom or consequence of the tumours, and whenever it is present the latter are supposed to exist, although not visible externally; an opinion which, as will afterwards be shown, is perfectly erroneous.

It is scarcely requisite, however, to point out the inutility of restricting the term in question to the flow of blood, or to the tumours separately, since it is sufficiently evident that both proceed from the same source, and may, in general, be considered as varieties of the same complaint. Nor would it be better to include,

by the definition, the special and immediate cause, since this, as will be shown, is not the same in every instance. Without making any further remarks, therefore, on this point, I shall define the term hæmorrhoids to be a morbid state of the vessels of the rectum and anus, with pain, tension, &c., accompanied or followed by the formation of tumours in those parts, and a flow of blood, frequently periodical. This definition includes the distinctions that exist with regard to hæmorrhoidal diseases in general, which I shall proceed to relate as concisely as I am able.

CHAPTER II.

ORIGIN AND GENERAL CHARACTER.

THE first attack of hæmorrhoids is generally very slight, and is not preceded by any marked constitutional derangement. There is some sensation of weight or fulness about the sacrum and extremity of the rectum, extending, perhaps, to the perineum; and the sensibility of the bladder, urethra, &c., is sympathetically increased.

This state continues for a short time, perhaps for two or three days, when, in many cases, a slight flow of blood takes place during the expulsion of the fæces, and smears their surface of a bright red colour. This flow never occurs in some individuals, particularly during the primary attacks; but when this is the case it forms, as it were, a crisis to the complaint, and the abovementioned symptoms disappear at an

earlier period. After a greater or less interval the same train of symptoms are generally renewed, but in a greater degree, acquiring strength by repetition; the sensations of weight, tension, &c., are more perceptible,—some sympathetic phenomena are observed,—the blood is discharged in greater quantity, and tumours of varied size begin to appear within or round the anus.

These tumours are preceded by a peculiar stinging or pricking pain, which increases as they dilate, and is generally much aggravated by the pressure of the sphincters. Sometimes blood oozes from their surface, or is squirted out through small apertures when at stool. On other occasions they remain dry, or they are moistened by a whitish serum, exhaled from the surface, but in either case, after a short time, they collapse, presenting, when they have been often distended, so many flaps of skin, forming, when external, a projecting and serrated margin to the anus.

In weak and irritable constitutions the influence of the local affection bears upon the aspect of the patient: the face is paler than usual, the eye appears sunk, from the dark circle beneath it; the abdomen becomes tumid, the feet swell, and, in addition to the appearances, there is a sensation of coldness, with shivering, hard pulse, dryness of the mouth, &c. Such is the general and regular character of the hæmorrhoidal attack, from the commencement, but it sometimes happens that the sensations of weight, fulness, and constriction, with the consequent train of sympathetic affections already noticed, may occur without the slightest effusion of blood, or the formation of tumours, even when the attack has been often repeated; or the flow of blood may occur without the tumours, though rarely without being ushered in by other symptoms.

In all cases, however, those symptoms which indicate an increased action and congestion in the vessels of the part are present, in some

degree at least, and this state of the vessels should therefore be regarded as the most prominent feature of the disease. Hence it would appear, even from a cursory view, that the immediate cause of hæmorrhoids consists in a preternatural determination of blood to the vessels of the rectum ; and the examination of the tumours, as well as other circumstances, show that the arterial capillary system of the part is chiefly implicated.

The quantity of blood that sometimes escapes is enormous ; and many writers have quoted cases of this nature which appear incredible. Hoffman states that a female, in whom the hæmorrhoidal as well as the menstrual discharge had been suppressed, lost more than twenty pounds of a bloody fluid in less than twenty-four hours ; other accounts, equally surprising, may be found in the works of many of the accredited continental authors.

Although relations like the above are very liable to be exaggerated, even by the patients

themselves, who are often desirous of adding to the peculiarity of their situation, yet there can be no doubt that discharges of blood, or of fluids bearing a strong resemblance to it, sometimes occur to a very great extent without proving fatal, as exemplified in the following cases, which fell under my observation some years ago :—

A lady from Wiltshire consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which she considered piles ; on examination I found a tumour as large as a hen's egg. I told her it would be necessary for her to undergo a slight operation to have it removed, to which she consented. I ordered her a draught, to be taken at night, and the following day I ordered her an injection, consisting of a pint of gruel and one ounce of castor oil. After relieving the bowels the tumour protruded, and very copious hæmorrhage (at least three pints of blood) followed. I had some difficulty in subduing the hæmorrhage, and I was obliged to stay with her nearly two

hours before it completely subsided. In about four days after I applied my usual dressing, which removed the tumour without her losing a drop of blood ; and she returned home in one month from the time she first consulted me, perfectly cured.

This case was a very extraordinary one : the lady assured me she had often gone a week without having a call to evacuate the bowels, and once she remembers not having an evacuation for nineteen days, and during that period she had taken nearly one pint of castor oil.

Another case was that of a gentleman from Kent, who consulted me for some small tumours of the rectum ; he complained that they were very troublesome, and that after he had been to stool a very copious discharge of blood always followed. I desired him to go to my water closet and empty the bowels, and then I would examine his case. After waiting about half an hour, and finding he did not return, I went to him, when, to my surprise, I found he had

fainted from loss of blood ; with assistance I had him removed to the sofa,—the hæmorrhage returned, and I was not able to subdue it for more than three hours, during which time he lost a considerable quantity of blood. I would not allow him to be removed till the next day, fearing the hæmorrhage might again return. In about six days after I applied my dressing to the tumours, and in the course of one month he returned home, perfectly cured ; and I heard from him some months after, that he had never experienced another attack of hæmorrhage.

The general symptoms in such cases are of an inflammatory nature, and the vessels from which the discharge proceeds must be considered in a state of preternatural excitement ; but if the discharge does not cease when the symptoms that preceded it have disappeared, or is not checked by proper remedies, it is necessarily followed by great prostration of strength, with relaxation of the exhalent vessels,

and it then becomes a disease of debility, and the cause of its further continuance. Patients, in such cases, often become cachetic, and die eventually from general dropsy.

CHAPTER III.

PERIODICAL RETURN OF THE HÆMORRHOIDAL DISCHARGE.

ONE of the most singular occurrences connected with this evacuation is its liability to occur at stated periods, bearing, in this respect, a striking resemblance to the menstrual discharge in females. I have known more than one instance where they have alternated, and in which the cessation of the menstrual evacuation has been succeeded, and replaced, as it were, by periodical discharges of blood from the rectum.

There are two kinds of hæmorrhoidal tumours, differing very materially, both in their appearance and structure. The first that I shall speak of is by much the most common, and constitutes what are commonly termed piles. They are first seen in the form of small fleshy

tubercles, generally of a brownish or pale red colour, and situated within the rectum, or descending from it. On examining them with the finger, they are found to have a somewhat solid and spongy feel. When these tumours are more external they are paler, and generally, also, more elastic and transparent,—appearances which arise from the nature of the skin that covers them.

Occasionally these tumours attain an enormous size, arising chiefly from a large quantity of blood being effused into the central cavity, and in some degree also to the great increase in the thickness of the cuticular envelopment.

It is most probable that, in the case of fatal hæmorrhage related by Petit, the tumours were of the varicose kind: they were protruded from within, and, after being cut off, the skin around the upper part was drawn up within the rectum. Death took place within a few hours, and the rectum was found full of dark blood.

I will here relate another case:—

Mrs —, aged 45, had been more than ten years afflicted with what she considered piles, without suffering any great pain. They always protruded when the bowels were relieved, and she could easily return them, until one day, after having a motion, she found them so large that she could not replace them. On the following day I was sent for to see her, and I found her in a miserable state, on her knees by the side of her bed; there were four large tumours, one about the size of a walnut, and the other three rather smaller. The inflammation was very great; she could not even allow me to touch the part. I immediately sent for eighteen leeches, and applied them myself round the rectum; they bled very freely, and in about an hour and a half the tumours returned. I desired her to keep very quiet, and told her, when she felt a desire for a motion, to send for me. On the following morning I received a message to go to her immediately; when I arrived she had just had a motion,

and I found, by using very little pressure, that the parts returned. Every day she continued to improve, and on the fifth day I advised her to allow me to apply my dressing, which would have given her permanent relief, but she declined, feeling, as she said, so well that she had no fear that she should be enabled to return the parts as before. When I left I ordered her to take occasionally six drachms of castor oil.

If the tumours here described had been removed with the knife, I question much whether the hæmorrhage would not have endangered her life. In proportion to the recurrence of the hæmorrhoidal paroxysm, the tumours that form generally increase in size, and such as were originally within the extremity of the gut are often forced down and appear at the anus. Sometimes they continue in this position, contracting adhesions which impede their reduction, or acquire such an enormous size, that if returned they act as foreign bodies to the rectum, and are

immediately protruded, but more frequently they are only seen externally, when the patient is at stool or is desired to make an artificial effort.

By the pressure of the sphincters, partly also by the mechanical injury in the passing of indurated fœces, and a disposition in tumours to vascular action, inflammation is often produced, attended, in many instances, with the most violent and excruciating pains, and not unfrequently ending in abscess and fistula. The extreme violence of the symptoms, however, in such cases, cannot be better illustrated than by mentioning the outlines of a case in which high inflammation of some tumours was succeeded by sloughing :—

Mr —, aged 47, after having for some time great inconvenience from the presence of some hæmorrhoidal tumours within the rectum, was attacked at the usual period of their enlargement with acute throbbing pain in the rectum, quick bounding pulse, and other bad symptoms of local and general irritation ; when I saw him

his countenance was distorted by pain, and, although a man of strong mind and great fortitude in general, he could not, in the present instance, avoid expressing his sufferings by loud shrieks, particularly when the bowels were moved. The slightest motion of the body was productive of the most exquisite torture; and such was the sensibility of the inflamed parts, that an attempt to arrange the bed-clothes, or a light tread over the floor, added considerably to his sufferings. I ordered twelve leeches to be applied round the rectum, and a fomentation of camomile flowers and poppy heads to be applied after the leeches came off. On the following day, after the bowels had been relieved, I examined the part, when I found an abscess had broke internally, which had given him very great relief. In a few days I was enabled to apply my dressing, and in less than eight weeks he considered himself perfectly cured.

The following letter I received from him previously to his leaving town :—

Montague street, Portman square,
30th Sept. 1831.

DEAR SIR,

In justice to you, myself, and the public, I feel bound to acknowledge the great benefit I have derived from your surgical skill and attention, which have almost entirely eradicated a disease under which I have suffered during the last *ten* years; and I have no hesitation in thus publicly avowing that I have received more benefit from you during the short time I have been under your care, than from the advice of several of the most eminent professional men in England and many of the capitals of the Continent.

You have my full permission to make use of this, as an encouragement to any person who may be suffering under similar complaints to mine, and who may be fortunate enough to place themselves under your care.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

S. S. C——.

The foregoing remarks apply almost exclusively to the complicated swellings about the rectum, consequently persons who are suffering even slightly should consult their medical attendant early.

Many writers have supposed that a disposition to hæmorrhoidal diseases is often hereditary; and daily observation certainly proves that many families are much more subject to them than others. There can be no doubt, indeed, that a similarity of conformation, transmitted from father to son, by favouring the operation of the existing causes, may contribute indirectly to produce hæmorrhoids; but whether there is a general predisposition, independent of structure, I cannot pretend to assert.

If we give credit to the writings of many authors, we are led to conclude that hæmorrhoidal diseases are much more common in some countries than in others, and that this is owing to the influence of climate. It is evident that the nature and temperature of the atmosphere

may have considerable influence in combination with other causes, but I think it bears no comparison to the circumstance with which it is connected, namely, the kind of the food of which the inhabitants of different nations partake, and the peculiar habits to which they are subjected.

It has been remarked by Boerhaave, that these diseases are more frequent in the eastern nations than elsewhere, and the truth of this remark I had an opportunity of ascertaining from a gentleman from Greece, who placed himself under my care for rather a complicated disease of the rectum.

The great frequency of diseases of the rectum amongst the Turks may be traced to the indolent habit of sitting during almost the whole day on warm soft cushions, to the peculiarity of their diet, which, in addition to their general habits, often produce an indolent and torpid state of the bowels ; and perhaps, also, to an excessive indulgence in venery.

To the causes already noticed may be added a

great variety of others: violent exercise, particularly on horseback, a sedentary life, sudden variations of temperature, local irritation of any kind, an affinity with other affections in the same part, or in those more remotely situated. To enter more particularly, however, into a statement of these causes, to show in what manner hæmorrhoidal diseases are produced by some or aggravated by others, would much exceed the limits of this chapter, I shall therefore content myself with merely remarking, that many of those causes which, in excess, produce or dispose to hæmorrhoidal diseases, may, if applied with moderation and judgment, contribute very materially to their prevention and cure.

CHAPTER IV.

GENERAL TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS.

ATTENTION to diet is the first and most important consideration in many cases; and if the patient is not too far advanced in years,—enjoys a moderate state of health,—and will submit to what is thought requisite,—I will venture to say that he may pretty confidently expect a perfect cure with comparatively little pain.

Amongst the remedies that are generally given in hæmorrhoidal diseases, cream of tartar and milk of sulphur form a very good medicine, combined with lenitive electuary. The following is what I prescribe:—One ounce of milk of sulphur, one ounce of cream of tartar, one ounce and a half of lenitive electuary, and a sufficient quantity of simple syrup to form an electuary; one tea-spoonful to be taken night and morning.

Very frequently the tumours cannot be returned within the rectum, because there is some mechanical hindrance. They then continue to swell, one or more acquire a livid colour, resembling a dark grape, and in some cases the circulation is so far interrupted that mortification takes place, as the following case will explain :—

About ten years ago I was sent for to see a lady residing at Brompton; on examination I found the bowel had been protruded for more than eighteen hours,—several medical men having in vain tried to get the part returned. I found there were several tumours, and one was in a state of mortification. I immediately removed it, and ordered 18 leeches to be applied round the rectum; and in about two hours the bowel returned. I then ordered her an opiate draught; and on the following day, when I saw her, the bowels had been relieved, and the part had returned, with very little trouble to her. I saw her for several days after, during which time her health so much improved that on the sixth

day after my first visit I was enabled to apply my dressing, and in the course of six weeks the whole of the tumours were removed, and I am happy to say she felt herself perfectly cured.

When hæmorrhoidal swellings are large and very painful, and retained with difficulty within the rectum, becoming ulcerated, and disposed to bleed (frequently proving a source of great inconvenience), the only plan I recommend is to have them removed as speedily as possible; and after the wounds are perfectly healed I should recommend the daily use of the rectum bougie, to complete the cure.

CHAPTER V.

ON THE SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF STRICTURES OF THE RECTUM.

THE symptoms which accompany strictures of the rectum naturally divide themselves into two kinds, namely, those which are incident to a change of structure in the part, and such as proceed from obstruction.

The former of these are generally very obscure (except in an advanced stage of malignant stricture), and often scarcely perceptible to the patient. The latter are always more or less violent, according to the degree of contraction ; but still these are often variable, and very similar to the symptoms which are connected with other affections of the alimentary canal ; and if the attention of the practitioner be not alive to the probability of stricture, as a source from which they may proceed, the true nature of the

disease will, in general, be overlooked, and the life of the patient often sacrificed in consequence.

Sir Charles Bell, in his excellent work on strictures, &c., relates a case where, having occasion to puncture the bladder by the rectum, he found his finger obstructed by a stricture, yet the patient did not know of its existence; and at another time, when he was about to perform the operation for fistula in ano, on a gentleman, he found a stricture so narrow that it would not receive the point of the little finger; but that neither before nor since the stricture was discovered had the patient been willing to admit that his symptoms arose from this cause.

I am very frequently consulted by persons who are labouring under fistula, and often find, on examination, that they have likewise a bad stricture. From what has been stated in the preceding section, respecting the different forms of stricture, it is evident, that some little variation of the symptoms may proceed from this

source ; but as the principal ailments in all such cases arise solely from obstruction to the free passage of the excrement, they must necessarily have more or less of the same character, and which is discoverable by a moderate share of attention.

In June 1828 I was sent for to see a nobleman who was suffering very much from a contracted state of the bowel. He described his case very accurately : he had been scarified with the lancet round the rectum, yet he experienced no relief. I examined the rectum, when to my surprise I found some difficulty in introducing my little finger. I told him it would be necessary to have the rectum bougie introduced daily, and after I had passed the bougie five times he expressed himself very considerably relieved, and on the tenth day from my first visit I received the following note :—“ Lord —— finds himself quite recovered from his complaint. He will be glad to receive Mr Van Butchell tomorrow morning at the usual hour ; he con-

ceives, however, that Mr V. B. will not find it necessary to do anything further in the way of cure."

I informed him, however, that he was not cured, and I was certain he would experience a relapse if the bougie were not continued for some time longer; but he said he was anxious to go to Doncaster to see his race horses, and when he returned if he felt the least inconvenience he would send for me. In about three weeks I received a note, requesting I would call on him at the usual time. I did so, and continued attending him till he was perfectly cured. When I took my leave of him he expressed his gratitude, and gave me full permission to make use of his name.

It is astonishing the very great relief some persons feel from the introduction of the bougie only a few times. Patients frequently remark to me how much better they feel after the bougie has only been introduced six or seven times; and sometimes they discontinue their visits

altogether, considering themselves perfectly cured.

The ordinary seat of stricture of the rectum is from two and a half to four inches from the orifice of the gut. But sometimes it occurs at a greater distance,—at six to seven inches, for example ;—and a contraction of the same nature is occasionally met with in different parts of the colon.

The symptoms of stricture are as follow:—The fœces are passed in small and narrow and flattened portions ; and the quantity voided at a time is inconsiderable, from the effect required to pass it through the stricture. The bowel being thus insufficiently relieved, the effort has to be repeated frequently during the day ; and it is only after many efforts that all its contents are passed.

The narrowed portion of the canal is extremely sensible ; which is owing, partly to the thickening which forms it being originally produced by an inflammation, and partly to the irri-

tation of the mucous lining of the stricture, which is occasioned by the more forcible pressure of the fœces against it.

Sir Charles Bell mentions a case which came under his observation, where the tumour formed by the fundus of the uterus having fallen back into the hollow of the sacrum, was mistaken for, and treated as a stricture of the rectum.

“I was called,” he states, “to give my opinion of the condition of a lady, after she had been three years under the use of bougies. She was very ingenious, and with her pencil she explained every thing she felt, and all that she had been ordered to do; but I urged the necessity of examination, and the possibility of there being some mistake; and, in fact, I found that the obstruction of the rectum arose from the fundus of the uterus having fallen into the hollow of the sacrum. Against this had the bougie been pushed regularly for years, and happily without further bad consequences than the expensive attendance of the surgeon.”

The treatment of ordinary cases of stricture of the rectum is no less simple in practice than satisfactory in its results. A bougie of a size calculated easily to fill the stricture should be passed through it daily, or every second or third day, according to the irritability of the patient, and retained for from fifteen to twenty minutes after each introduction; the pressure of the bougie causes absorption, and the patient is able gradually to have larger bougies introduced, and the rectum is at length restored to its original state. The bowels are to be kept gently and regularly open by taking occasionally some mild aperient; for, as one great cause of the formation and increase of the contraction is local irritation, it is evident, that the injury done to the parts by the passage of indurated fœces, or the irritation which is produced by purging, (a necessary consequence when the bowels are allowed to continue in this state,) must very materially counteract the beneficial influence of other remedies, and retard or prevent the cure.

It would be useless to recommend any particular remedies for this purpose, each individual must have recourse to such as he has found by experience to agree with him, and to act moderately upon the bowels; but it may be said that aloetic and other resinous purgations, as they act chiefly upon the rectum, should be avoided.

A contracted state of the rectum is by no means an uncommon complaint, and, like a similar affection of the anus, it may be connected with organic disease, or proceed from an undue contraction of the muscular fibres, by which it is encircled. If the complaint continues for some time, it is usually followed by a slight degree of prolapsus ani,—the necessary consequence of the straining at stool, by which the inner membrane is gorged with blood, and being elongated, is forced down, whilst the fibres of the sphincter muscles being continually excited, (as if some foreign body were accidentally lodged in the same part,) by degrees become morbidly

contracted, and add very considerably to the straitness of the passage.

In general, the pain comes on soon after the patient has had a motion,—continues for a short time, and does not return until the following day, or still later, if the bowels are not moved in the interim; but in very irritable habits it may be produced by the slightest causes, as in the disengagement of wind, a more than usual exertion, passions of the mind, &c.

In cases of contracted rectum, connected with thickening and induration, the immediate consequence of inflammation, the cure must depend upon correcting the torpid state of the bowels, which in the generality of these cases has been the remote cause of the complaint. Leeches and fomentations must also be employed, and when there are any excrescences or tumours within the margin of the rectum they should be removed, as they act like foreign bodies in producing a continued irritation.

If the bougie will not effect a cure in cases of

contracted rectum, it will be found not altogether useless on many occasions ; and certainly of great advantage in subduing the predisposition, which appears to exist in some individuals, to this complaint.

CHAPTER VI.

ON FISTULA IN ANO.

THE simple abscess which often forms near the anus, is either in consequence of a blow upon the part, or some other injury. It often arises very suddenly, is ushered in by more or less fever, and followed by a burning heat and acute shooting and throbbing pain at the extremity of the rectum. A swelling soon appears near to the anus, the patient becomes unable to sit up, and the pain and tenderness of the tumour is so great, that he is afraid to move in any direction. If the abscess be not opened by a lancet it soon bursts, and in either case the exit of the matter is followed by immediate relief.

An abscess similar to the preceding, but of a milder nature, often forms near the anus, and is accompanied with little pain, or no symptoms

of general irritation. I have often observed it to occur in persons who, during hot weather, have been obliged to take more than usual exercise, and have neglected to wash away the acrid secretions which take place in consequence, producing sometimes a degree of tenderness between the nates.

When hæmorrhoidal tumours, strictures, or other affections of the gut are present, they may almost invariably be considered as the immediate cause, inasmuch as they favour the production of ulcers in the parietes of the gut, and which, from the irritation of the moisture from the feculent matter, become converted into small sinuses,—and hence it is that suppuration is readily established from irritation within this organ, although its parietes are apparently not affected.

This fact, which is only sufficiently obvious to those who have paid attention to the subject, is pointedly alluded to by Sir Charles Bell, who, by comparing it with the relative state of things, in respect to many of the other natural passages,

and showing that the same phenomena are connected in other parts, has contributed to form of it one of those principles which are so useful in practice. "I do not," he observes, "find it distinctly stated, that the inflammation within any of the natural tubes or passages will produce abscess externally. Yet we have abscess external to the fauces, from inflammation of the membrane of the throat; we have suppuration around the cartilages of the larynx, from inflammation of the inner membrane; so we have abscess by the side of the lachrymal duct, and by the side of the urethra in the perineum, from irritation and inflammation existing within these tubes. These are so many analogies with the suppurations which arise about the anus from irritation within. We must consider that the cellular membrane is many degrees more disposed to the formation of abscess than any other texture; and as an inflamed gland itself will yet produce pus in the surrounding cellular membrane, so the extremity of the rectum, without

being the seat of suppuration, will yet cause it in the loose texture which is around it.”

It is from this circumstance, that the small sinuses about the anus are usually connected with piles, or chronic inflammation, existent in the inner membrane of the gut.

C A S E S.

CASE I.

IN May, 1824, a tradesman from Horsleydown consulted me for a complicated case of fistula and piles. He had been afflicted about five years, and had undergone an operation without receiving any benefit. On examination I found a fistula and a tumour; I dressed the tumour, and on the third day it came away; and, as soon as it was healed, I dressed the fistula. In a few days afterwards he expressed himself very much relieved, and in ten weeks from my first visit he was perfectly cured.

In the month of August the patient addressed to me the following letter :—

Horsleydown, Southwark,

August, 1824.

DEAR SIR,

IT is with a sense of gratitude and obligation that I take up my pen to acknowledge the benefit that I have derived from your professional assistance; after having suffered for upwards of five years the most excruciating torments from internal piles; and during the latter eighteen months with a fistula (having the piles and fistula at the same time); and although having at various times had the advice of many of the faculty, viz.—Drs B——, L——, and M ——, I could never get any relief until I applied to you, when, after only ten weeks' attendance, I once more feel myself in possession of that ease in body which I at one time expected never to regain. Since I left you I have not perceived the least symptoms of the complaint, and I shall be most happy to bear testimony to any inquiry

that may be made respecting the cure you have performed upon me.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

W. C——.

CASE II.

IN April, 1825, a gentleman from Cheltenham consulted me for a painful disease of the rectum. He stated that at times he had suffered severely for many days together, and that he was unable to sit. The medical gentleman who examined him three days previously to his seeing me assured him it was impossible for any person to effect a cure without cutting; he, however, had so great dread of the operation that he told me he would sooner die than submit to it. When I examined his case I found a fistulous opening about two inches from the rectum, and on introducing the probe I found it grate against something like bone. I desired him to apply hot poultices five or six times a day, and on the follow-

ing day he told me he had suffered very great pain. Upon examination I found a small piece of bone forcing itself out of the sinus, which I removed, and he expressed himself much relieved. On the day after I examined the fistula again, and I found it entered the gut about two inches ; on the following day I applied my dressing, and in five weeks he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE III.

IN October, 1825, Mr W——, from Brazenorton, Oxfordshire, consulted me for fistula, with which he said he had been afflicted for more than two years. On examination I found a slight contraction of the rectum, and that the fistula penetrated the gut at about two inches ; I prescribed some opening medicine, and desired that he should send for me on the following day after the bowels were relieved. I then found him more free from pain than he had been for some months, and I applied my usual dressing. When I saw him

the next day he said he had slept well, and on the twenty-fifth day he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE IV.

IN the same month a gentleman from Bath, sixty years of age, consulted me for a fistula with which he had been afflicted eighteen years. It was a simple case, only penetrating the gut about one inch. He was very much delighted when I told him I could cure him without cutting, and assured me there was not a surgeon of eminence in London that he had not consulted ; all of whom agreed that it was impossible for him to be cured without submitting to an operation. I prescribed for him the usual medicine, and on the next day I applied my dressing, and when I saw him the following day and told him he had no more pain to undergo, he seemed perfectly astonished. On the fourth day he came to my house, and continued his attendance every day

until the 1st of November, by which time he was perfectly cured.

CASE V.

IN November, 1825, a gentleman from Essex consulted me, requesting my opinion upon some swellings about the rectum. He said that about three years back he was operated on for fistula, and confined to his bed for eight days after ; that he had suffered very great pain during and after the operation, which he readily underwent because he was promised a perfect cure, and his medical attendant discontinued his visits, considering him perfectly cured. Two months after the operation another swelling formed, which broke and became a fistula. He underwent another operation, which confined him to his room for several weeks, and up to the time he consulted me there had been a constant discharge. I prescribed some medicine, and the next day applied my dressing. He soon became perfectly well, and returned home in one month from the day he first consulted me.

CASE VI.

IN June, 1826, a professional gentleman from Edinburgh consulted me for a very painful prolapsus of the rectum, and gave the following history of his complaint:—

He was habitually costive, and lost a great quantity of blood whenever he had an evacuation, which he was obliged to solicit by the use of purgative medicines. At the time of passing his stool there were several hæmorrhoidal tumours protruded from the gut, which could not be returned for many hours, and during this time he was in very great pain, which lasted until he was able to reduce them.

When I examined him I found the sphincter muscle so rigid that it was with difficulty I could introduce my finger. I ordered him to take a draught in the morning, and when the bowels were relieved to send for me. On examination I found three tumours,—one very large, and the other two about the size of a nutmeg. I advised him to let me apply my dressing, which

he consented to; accordingly, on the following day, I dressed the largest, which came away on the third day, and he expressed himself very much relieved. I saw him daily, and he assured me the bowels now acted very differently to what they had usually done, as he could now have his motion with comparative comfort. I advised him to have the other tumours dressed without delay, and he came to my house on the following day for that purpose. After the bowels were relieved I applied my dressing, and the pain was so trifling that he walked home afterwards. In a few days the other tumour was dressed in the same way, and in seven weeks, from the day he first consulted me, he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE VII.

IN the same month a retired tradesman, about sixty years of age, consulted me for a fistula. He stated that he had a very great objection to the knife, and understanding that I would cure

him without cutting, he was induced to apply to me. I accordingly examined him, and told him I thought his case would take about six weeks to cure. We agreed as to terms, and on the following day I applied my dressing, which came away on the third day, when he expressed himself very much relieved, and within six weeks from my first application he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE VIII.

IN May, 1827, a tradesman from Rochester, about thirty years of age, applied to me for a painful disease of the rectum. I found, on examination, a deep-seated fistula, and I assured him, if he could stay in town a month, I could promise him a perfect cure. On the following day I applied my dressing, and in one month he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE IX.

THE following case was written by the patient, a clergyman :—

Lewes, March 11, 1828.

SIR,

HAVING for the last fourteen weeks been almost entirely confined to my bed (from whence, in fact, I am now writing) by a most violent and painful attack of internal piles, I was last week induced to request Mr Eagles, of Newhaven, to call on me to give me some account of the very wonderful cure he had received from you when labouring under fistula; and, in consequence of the conversation I had with him, I cannot help addressing you on the subject of my own most distressing case. The natural reply for you to make will, I am aware, be, “Come up to town, and let me see you.” I wish most heartily I had the means of doing so,—but unfortunately I can

scarcely get out of my bed even. Could you, therefore, *send* me anything to effect a cure, or even so far to relieve me as to enable me to get to town, I would most cheerfully remit to you the sum paid by Mr Eagles. I have had the best advice the country can afford,—Surgeon H—— of Lewes, Mr L—— of Brighton, and all the eminent men, but they cannot afford me the least relief. They pronounce the piles to be entirely external. There is a great deal of *fleshy* substance down at the sides of the anus, and the inside of the anus is very much inflamed: the pain I suffer after going to stool is of the most excruciating nature; in short, all the medical men pronounce it to be the worst and most distressing case they ever met with. Let me entreat you, therefore, to take it into your consideration, and rest assured you will not find me ungrateful for any relief you may give me. Pray let me hear from you, and let me again entreat you to send me something to apply to

the parts. All expenses incurred I will cause to be paid to you by the Lewes bankers,

And believe me,

Ever thankful,

C. H——.

On the 16th of March this gentleman arrived in town, accompanied by his brother, in a travelling carriage. Lodgings were provided for him in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor square, and I was sent for to see him. He appeared very much distressed from the journey, though they had taken two days to perform it. When I examined the part I detected a blind fistula, an ulcerated gut, and a stricture. His health was very much impaired, and the liver was very torpid. I prescribed such medicine as I thought requisite, and in the morning I waited on him again and was surprised to find him in such good spirits. I attended him twice a day for some weeks; on the forty-fifth day after his arrival he told me he felt so well that he should very much wish to return home if I would allow him, but

at my suggestion he remained until the 19th of May. He then left London (wishing to perform the duties at church) and I gave him instructions how to act for himself.

The following letter I received from him on his return :—

Lewes, May 22, 1828.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU will be glad to hear that I got home without the least fatigue or inconvenience,—the people are surprised to see me so well, and the medical men allow that nothing could have ended better.

Believe me,

Ever faithfully yours,

C. H——.

CASE X.

IN May, 1828, a farmer from Oxfordshire consulted me for a fistula. He stated that his complaint originated in an abscess that had formed about eighteen months ago, near the anus, which

had been opened by a very respectable surgeon, but it had never healed. On examination I found the fistula penetrating the gut at about two inches. On the following day I ordered him a draught in the morning, and in the afternoon I applied my dressing ; and in one month he returned home perfectly cured.

CASE XI.

IN August, 1828, a gentleman consulted me for a very troublesome disease of the rectum. He said he had been some years afflicted, and his complaint was very much aggravated after every motion. I prescribed a draught for him, and requested he would send for me on the following day, immediately after the bowels were relieved. The next morning I attended him, and on examination I found he had three small hæmorrhoidal excrescences ; I told him it would require a month's attendance to cure him, to which he agreed, and I accordingly applied

my usual dressing. In less than a month he was perfectly cured, and shortly after I received from him the following letter :—

November, 1828.

SIR,

THE enclosed is the amount of what I understood you to say you would consider a remuneration for the trouble you have had during your attendance on me. Should there be any mistake I must beg you to inform me, and I will rectify it on some future occasion.

On my return from ———, in December, I shall again have the pleasure of seeing you ; in the mean time, should you think it necessary to write, you may direct to me, ———, Sussex.

I beg a line of acknowledgment by the bearer, who has orders to wait. Be assured I have great pleasure in expressing the deep sense I entertain of your skill and attention, and shall gladly avail myself of every opportunity to do you

any service I can in the way of your profession.

I remain,
Your obedient humble servant,

— — — — —.

CASE XII.

IN November, 1828, a gentleman consulted me for a prolapsus ani. On examination I found three excrescences, and told him he must submit to a slight operation, to which he consented, and in one month he was perfectly cured.

Shortly after I received from him the following letter :—

Greenwich, Kent,
29th January, 1829.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG leave to repeat my grateful thanks for the comfort I daily experience from the total eradication of the sufferings I long submitted to, and it will ever be my study to recommend and applaud your surgical skill, which was so effica-

cious in the disastrous case from which I endured agony beyond expression for fifteen years.

With due respect, I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. C——.

CASE XIII.

THE following case is written by the patient:—

June 6, 1829.

Miss ——, . aged 40, was first affected with piles about eight years ago, after over-heating herself by a long walk in warm weather; since that time they have troubled her every spring, and sometimes in the autumn. She has on these occasions generally derived *most* relief from the application of leeches, until last October, when, after feeling for some time very unwell, a slow nervous fever came on, which she once had about two years back, after a fall from a horse. About the middle of December, after having taken a box of blue pill, a very *violent* pain came on suddenly in the lower part of the back, near the end of the back bone, internally, and continued for

about four hours, when she could neither move nor speak for the agony. After it had subsided, an evacuation having been procured by clysters, a quantity of black bloody slime came off, and the side lost that feeling of fulness which before had existed there. After this period the pain regularly attacked the same internal part every day, sometimes twice in the four and twenty hours, with dreadful violence, lasting from an hour to two or three. At each time a flying pain, sometimes in the head, chest, stomach or bowels, would generally precede the attack, and a swelling in the part would be sensibly felt, but not exactly what she had experienced with other attacks of piles; neither was the pain *exactly* similar. This continued near two months; a slight pain in the fingers, toes, and other joints, was also daily felt, and an appearance of inflammation in the right hand forefinger seemed to indicate gout, with strong pulse in the parts affected: indeed, during the whole time, the pulse was for the most part extremely high and

throbbing, and every excitement brought on the pain, as did every kind of food or medicine. After the fever had subsided, Miss — has been in a state of extreme debility, but is for the most part free from pain since she has taken Mr Van Butchell's medicine, but has great weakness in the chest, and feels the piles sometimes troublesome after an evacuation (which often comes off in a tape form, or flat.) They bleed a little at times; there is, with the exception of one little pile, no *external* appearance at present. The fulness, or more properly *tightness* in the *right side*, extending *from* the *shoulder* down *across* the *ribs*, is often experienced.

A few days after receiving the above letter the lady sent for me, and on examination, I found she was labouring under fistula, stricture, and two hæmorrhoidal excrescences. Her general health being very much impaired, I prescribed such medicine as I thought proper. Four days afterwards I directed an enema (consisting of yellow soap and water, about one pint) to be

used, and immediately after I applied my dressing to the tumours, which came away on the third day, and which gave her very great relief. I continued visiting her daily for eight weeks, during which time the fistula and stricture were perfectly cured, and at the expiration of that time she returned home in perfect health. In about a month after I received the following letter:—

Cardiganshire, 9th Sept. 1829.

DEAR SIR,

SINCE leaving town I have frequently felt called upon to address you with grateful feelings, and have only delayed doing so from a desire to specify more particularly how I am getting on. I shall proceed to state, as a brief sketch of my journey, that I slept at Gloucester on the first night, and from thence set off on the following morning for our friend's house, about four miles from Ross, where I remained some days—but the weather unfortunately deprived me of much pleasure from the beautiful scenery on the banks

of the Wye, so charmingly described by its native bard, Bloomfield—and after paying some other visits *en passant*, I arrived at my uncle's house in Carmarthenshire, where my friends, as well as numerous others in this quarter, have been perfectly astonished at the evident change in my health, apparent, they say, in my countenance and spirits; in short, I seem to some as a being raised from the grave,—where it appears they had in idea placed me. Thus I have, indeed, ample gratitude to that Divine Providence which disposes of all events, for guiding me to you. This in some circumstances appears more clearly than in others, and the present one is an instance of it. My prejudice would have prevented my attending to an advertisement, had not the *one* which came into my hands appeared under the *sanction of a respectable society* (which I think that I before mentioned to you) and now notice as *a hint with respect to others*; my hopes, thus excited, braved every obstacle, and I rejoice to say that the result has been all I could anti-

cipate, as I can really now say I am perfectly well. The enjoyment of health to me, after such extreme suffering, is a blessing I cannot with sufficient gratitude estimate, and I beg you will believe that, at any subsequent period of my life, I shall always feel a pleasure (should you think it requisite to refer any *female fellow sufferer* to me) to express, with every sentiment of thankfulness, the benefit I have personally derived from your skill. It is highly probable that you may have other patients from this part of the country, although I think it likely that they will not choose to be known. My father begs to join in kind compliments, trusting that yourself and family are in the enjoyment of health, and that you may continue to do so, as well as every other blessing, temporal and eternal, is, believe me, the sincere wish of,

My dear Sir,

Your very much obliged patient,

JANE ———.

CASE XIV.

A LADY, thirty-nine years of age, the wife of an officer, applied to me in the beginning of May, 1832, in consequence of a very painful affection about the anus, which had been gradually increasing for three years, but was then becoming rapidly worse. She had applied to several medical men without obtaining any relief. She was of a very costive habit, and experienced great pain and difficulty in passing her stools, which she had observed for some time were small in diameter; she had frequent but ineffectual calls, when it often happened that a substance protruded from the anus, extremely painful, which used to bleed occasionally. The tumour would sometimes remain down the whole of the day, and would not return until she had passed the night in bed. There was sometimes hæmorrhage without any protrusion, and she complained of a sense of weight about the lower

part of the back, and of pains shooting down the thighs. Her nights were restless, attended with perspiration; she was thirsty, had a very impaired appetite, and her strength was considerably reduced.

Upon examining the part I found a fistula communicating with the rectum, and an hæmorrhoidal excrescence about the size of a filbert; but on inquiry, I was informed that the tumour was sometimes much larger. There was also, at about two inches and a half from the orifice, a very narrow stricture, which would not admit my little finger. Having minutely examined the parts, I informed the patient she would be under the necessity of submitting to a slight operation, and in the mean time proper means were adopted with a view to palliate the disorder, such as gentle laxatives, and leeches to the part. As, however, no sensible benefit was derived from these means, I suggested the propriety of applying my dressing, which she agreed to, and in the course of three days the tumour came off,

and she expressed herself very much relieved. In about ten days I again applied my dressing for the cure of the fistula. The dressing came away on the third day, and on the twentieth day from the time it was applied the fistula was perfectly cured. I then directed that the rectum bougie should be introduced daily, to complete the cure.

The following letter I received from her previously to her leaving town :—

Barnes Common, July, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

AT the moment of my taking a final leave of one who had so materially served me, my feelings were too acute to express as I think I ought to have done the sense of the obligation I am under to you for having effected so complete a cure of my complicated and particularly delicate and embarrassing disorder. I believe I once remarked to you that none but those who have themselves suffered can fully appreciate the

entire value of the deliverance which a patient experiences after having endured (perhaps for years, and in secret) bodily pain which is in all probability exceeded by mental anguish,—then, in such circumstances, providentially to be led to you (whose skill can insure a remedy attended with so small portion of pain and inconvenience) is an unspeakable blessing, for which not any sum of money can be considered equivalent, or any language has power to express the obligation. I earnestly wish that your own health and strength may be so improved, that for many years yet to come you may continue in that wide sphere of usefulness in which you are placed, and, if in my power to strengthen the faith of any lady, I beg you would freely and without reserve send her to me, and I doubt not being able to convey to the mind of any sufferer a portion of the comfort, confidence, and cheerfulness that I enjoyed while under your immediate care, and which was greatly promoted by the moderation and gentleness with which you

met my unnecessary fears, securing the lasting gratitude of her who begs leave to subscribe herself,

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

MARIA B——.

CASE XV.

IN March, 1833, a professional gentleman from Nottingham consulted me for what he considered a complicated disease of the rectum. He had been afflicted about sixteen years, and had consulted several professional men of the first eminence, without obtaining any permanent relief. I examined his case, and found he had two large tumours and a fistulous sinus, which I engaged to cure. I ordered him a draught at bed time, and on the following day I applied my dressing. One tumour came away on the third day, and in less than a fortnight both tumours and fistula were perfectly cured.

Previously to his leaving town I received from him the following letter :—

London, 6th April, 1833.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE short period of twelve days under your roof has exhibited such a contrast in the state of my health as to be almost incredible. I entered your house in the afternoon of Monday, the 25th of March last, distressingly afflicted with what I had endured (and called “Piles”) for the last sixteen years, and on this day, Saturday the 6th of April (just completing twelve days) I am, thank God, through your skilful attention, enabled to return into the country by the mail coach (a distance of one hundred and twenty-six miles) cured. Two large tumours in the rectum, and a fistulous sinus, having been effectually removed, without requiring confinement, or occasioning inconvenience or pain worth speaking of.

That I should have continued so many years afflicted, and be able to obtain no other than mere temporary relief from professional men of the first eminence, is indeed surprising! I cannot quit London without thus expressing my thanks for your skilful and friendly attention, and assuring you that I am delighted and proud to add my testimony to your justly-earned reputation. I shall at all times with pleasure render to any enquirer an explanation of my case, if in doing so I can promote your interest, or if the facts of my case will induce a fellow-sufferer to take courage and follow my example, to obtain relief from his affliction. I desire to say that any child of six years old would have undergone the operations that you have performed upon me without complaint; indeed, I have endured more in walking twenty yards, and in carriage travelling five miles, than any pain experienced under your hands, or as consequent upon your operations, which I have pleasure in designating scientific, efficacious, and simple,—expeditious

and painless. Accept my heartfelt thanks, and believe me,

My dear Sir,

Your obliged servant,

S. P——.

CASE XVI.

THE following case is written by the patient, a lady:—

“I am forty years of age, have been married twelve years, had five children and three miscarriages, and the last eight years of my life have been passed in India. I have always had severe labours, but have always recovered very well after my confinements; and during the whole of my residence in India, I never had any fever. I have never enjoyed robust health, but had every reason to be satisfied with the portion I possessed till the beginning of the year 1828. I then began to be sensible of a gradual loss of strength, and extreme irritability of the nerves; but being in the family way, I ascribed

these new sensations to my situation, and did not consider my general health to be at all affected. My confinement took place in July, 1829, when I had a severe labour, but it was considered a safe one, and after the first fortnight I felt as well as I had usually done on similar occasions. After that I began to be sensible of a gradual loss of strength, and the same painful, nervous sensations I had experienced before my confinement returned with additional violence. For about six weeks I had a constant gnawing pain in my right side, and a sensation of great weight whenever I attempted to lie on the other. The pain was not at all acute, and there was no enlargement of the liver or pain from pressure. For these reasons the physician whom I consulted decided that my liver was not affected, and that the pain of my side was merely occasioned by weakness. I had at the same time an incessant pain at the lower part of my back, and was subject to sudden pains in my limbs, and violent perspirations, with extreme coldness in

my feet. Some domestic misfortune which happened at this time aggravated all these symptoms extremely, and as my illness was considered to be entirely owing to debility and the effects of the climate, I was advised to proceed immediately to England. From the month of August, the time I quitted India, to the month of January, when I arrived in London, I continued in much the same state. I was recommended by a physician not to take any more medicine, as he thought it would still further debilitate me. In general my bowels were in a confined state, but subject to sudden extremes. Sometimes, for a week or ten days, I appeared to be getting better, and then, without any apparent cause, relapsed into my former state.

“I was advised to consult Dr —, who seemed to think a great deal of medicine was necessary, particularly calomel, which I took several times. I gained a little strength after this, when the doctor advised me to go to Cheltenham, as he thought I should derive a great

deal of benefit from the waters. I accordingly went there early in May, and when I arrived, consulted Dr ——, who appeared to understand my case completely, and assured me my illness was occasioned by some biliary obstruction, which he thought he could very soon remove. He gave me some pills containing a small quantity of mercury, which I took every night for a fortnight, and the waters in the morning. After that he thought me so much better, that he advised me to leave off the pills, and only to take the waters, which I continued to drink for another month. During the first six weeks I recovered very rapidly, but after that period my former complaint began to return ; Dr —— ascribed this to my having drank the waters rather too long, and advised me to go to Bath, as he thought that every obstruction that might have existed was entirely removed. I went to Bath in October, and was in hopes of preventing my complaints from increasing by taking the waters ; but although the effect was very considerable, I

was not sensible of much benefit. My nerves became in such a state of irritation that I could not even bear to be spoken to, and the slightest exertion brought on a head-ache. I had frequent pains in my limbs, a constant throbbing in my temples, quick pulse, and a sensation of such debility and oppression that it was painful for me to walk across the room. After experiencing all this for a fortnight, I had a very violent attack of a bowel complaint, which convinced me that, in spite of all the physic I had taken, my bowels were in a very bad state, and loaded with slime and some kind of bilious secretion. I was ordered some calomel and rhubarb, and other opening medicines; they all operated sufficiently, but at every interval between taking the medicine they became naturally in a very relaxed state, attended with a severe griping pain, which began in my stomach, and descended into my bowels. I have always a great deal of uneasiness after eating, and my digestion appears to be very imperfect. I was advised to consult

Dr ——, who ordered me to take calomel and rhubarb. I did so for about a week, which brought on violent attack of prolapsus of the rectum, and I of course discontinued to take the calomel. The apothecary who attended me thought the attack was owing to the irritation of the calomel. I then occasionally took some castor oil, or some mild purgative, but the pain I suffered whilst the bearing down lasted was very severe, and caused a violent pain in the lower part of my back, and this led me to suspect it was in some way connected with the state of my bowels.

“Soon after this I left Bath for London, and consulted Sir ——, who recommended me some nervous medicines; these I rather think only aggravated my sufferings; I had recourse again to my old medicine, calomel and rhubarb, and I found, instead of making me feel weaker, my strength certainly improved, and although I still suffered extremely, I had short intervals of ease, which I had not experienced during the three preceding years. While I continued this course

of medicine an amazing quantity of slime was constantly brought away, and the pain at the bottom of my back was much relieved.

“ From this time I had seldom recourse to any opening medicine, except some pills, composed of colocynth, calomel, and rhubarb, which I never omitted to take at least twice or three times a week. I also tried different tonics, from which I think I derived benefit. I was advised to go to the sea-side for the benefit of bathing, which I did, and staid there a month ; but I had no reason to think I derived any benefit from it.

“ In April, 1834, I went to London, and was advised to consult Sir ——. He did not think that I was labouring under any local disease, but seemed decidedly of opinion that there was something wrong in the digestive organs. Except the usual tonics, he did not suggest any thing that was likely to remedy this, I therefore returned to my usual pills.”

From the latter end of 1833 this lady had discontinued to make minutes of her complaint ;

she, however, consulted several other medical gentlemen after that time, but with similar disappointments.

In May, 1834, I received a note requesting I would call on her. I did so, and found her very much out of health. I told her it would be requisite that she should take a few grains of blue pill, and wrote a prescription for some pills, consisting of five grains of pulvis rhubarb and three of blue pill, to be taken at night, and in the morning an aperient draught ; and I desired, when the bowels were relieved, that she would send the nurse for me, which she did on the following day. I then examined her case, and found she was labouring under a very complicated disease of the rectum, viz. fistula, tumour, and stricture. I attended her daily for a week, and her health during that time being much improved, I recommended her to have the tumour removed, which she agreed to ; and on the following day I applied my dressing, and the tumour came off on the third day, when she

expressed herself much relieved. After the part had completely healed, I introduced a very small rectum bougie daily, and in less than a month I was enabled to introduce one of a moderate size, and to apply my dressing for the cure of the fistula, which came away on the third day; in about fifteen days after she considered herself so well that she was determined to leave England by the first ship for India, and on the 29th of August she left London, after having been separated from her husband nearly five years.

The following letter I received from her the day previously to her departure :—

DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT quit England without writing a few lines, expressive of the gratitude so justly your due, for the uncommon skill and unremitting attention manifested in your late treatment of my case,—a complicated one of fistula, tumour, and stricture,—so aggravated by several years' duration (notwithstanding the best advice procur-

able), that I was reduced to the last stage of weakness. In this state of extremity I was induced, by an advertisement, to apply to you, and truly thankful shall I ever be that I did so, since to your humane exertions, for the comparatively short period of three months, I consider myself indebted for life, and, consequently, the prospect I may now indulge of rejoining my husband, after an absence of five years, from protracted severe illness, which threatened to terminate only with existence. I may also add, with truth, that the cure was effected, comparatively speaking, with little pain; since the means adopted for the purpose were certainly less painful and difficult to endure than the sufferings produced by the dreadful disorders alluded to.

Earnestly wishing that your uncommon merit may ere long be better known and appreciated, I beg to subscribe myself, dear Sir,

Your ever grateful and obliged,

August 29, 1834.

P.S. As I leave town immediately, my aunt, Mrs B., desires me to say that she begs you will refer to her any lady who may be inclined to doubt the truth of the foregoing statement.

CASE XVII.

IN March, 1834, a gentleman, about forty-eight years of age, and whose general health was not very good, consulted me for a troublesome prolapsus of the gut, and tumours, which had existed, and had been increasing, for ten years. For the last three years he could not take moderate exercise without the protrusion of the part, and when he went to stool it came down very much. I prescribed for him a draught, and requested to see him on the following day, immediately after the bowels were relieved. On examination, there appeared four hæmorrhoidal tumours; one as large as a small walnut, the others about the size of a nutmeg. I told him he ought to have the large one removed, and on the following day, after the

bowels were relieved, I applied my dressing. He did not complain of much pain, and on the third day, when the tumour came off, he expressed himself much relieved. On the seventh day I applied my dressing to the next largest, which, on the third day, also came away. When he had a motion on the following day I examined him, and found two more tumours had made their appearance; consequently I applied my dressings until they were all removed.

In consequence of the death of a relation he was obliged to go into the country, when I received the following very satisfactory letter from him :—

DEAR SIR,

It is now little more than ten weeks since I placed myself under your care, for the cure of that distressing disease (internal hæmorrhoidal tumours) with which I had been so long afflicted, rendering me incompetent to use any active exertion, and depriving me of every enjoyment of my existence; and in that period you

have successfully removed six tumours, with little pain or inconvenience when compared with what I have suffered from the disease itself, and in comparison with what I suffered about *nine years* ago, when two tumours were removed by an eminent surgeon, with ligatures, at an interval of *six weeks* between each operation. I was then required to remain in bed till the removal was effected, which, in the first instance, occupied *nine days*, and all that time I was in constant pain, and kept on low diet; whereas, under your care, I have not been confined to my bed for one day. The tumours generally came away on the third day without pain, and the restraint in diet was very trivial—only for a day or two after each operation.

I am happy to say that I now begin to experience real benefit from your treatment of my case, and I feel every confidence that what you at first induced me to expect from it will ultimately be realized; and that in acknowledging, hereafter, the cure you have accomplished in me, I shall

have great reason to be thankful to God for the fortuitous circumstance which first induced me to consult you, that being the urgent solicitation of a gentleman (at the time almost an entire stranger to me) whom you had many years previously entirely cured of a disease, somewhat similar to mine, after upwards of *thirty years* of suffering.

As I am about to leave town for a few weeks, I could not take my departure without first rendering you this tribute of justice to your skill, and the attention I received from yourself and family during the six weeks I resided in your house ; and on my return I hope to present myself to you much improved in my general health, and that you may then find that my case will occasion you no further trouble, the cure, as far as surgical skill can accomplish it, being complete.

You are at liberty to mention my case to whomsoever you please ; and I shall be ready to give every information and satisfaction in my

power (as to your mode of treatment, and the benefit I have already experienced) to any fellow-sufferer who may wish to communicate with me on the subject, and am,

Dear Sir,

Your's truly,

——— square, Pentonville,
June 3, 1834.

CASE XVIII.

THE following case was written by the patient, a military officer:—

Having for some months experienced great pain and inconvenience from what was considered piles, I consulted several surgeons in various places, and, my complaint becoming more painful than alleviated, I came to London for the purpose of submitting my case to one of the most eminent surgeons in that metropolis, under whom I underwent a very painful operation, with the assurance of receiving immediate relief. That operation was the removal of a tumour

from the spincter muscle of the rectum by the knife. The incision would not heal, and becoming an ulcerated wound, my sufferings were very soon greater than ever, being never without intense pain, and always in the most excruciating suffering for eight or nine hours whenever the bowels were moved. In this state I have been supporting a miserable existence for eighteen months, consulting every surgeon and medical practitioner in London that I thought would be likely to benefit me ; but all hopes of any relief having become futile, and my general health and spirits being greatly impaired by continual suffering, I am about to retire into the country with the only hope that my complaint will speedily terminate my existence, unless, Sir, you can afford me some hopes of relief, as I have been advised to apply to you, in consequence of hearing of your skill in those distressing complaints.

This officer was under my care for three months, when he left me I received from him the following letter :—

High Wycombe, Bucks,
July 1834.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT define my grateful sense of the permanent benefit I derived from your great professional skill and gentle treatment, by which I was completely cured of an ulcerated rectum of more than two years' continuance, when I had totally failed to derive any relief from the most eminent surgeons in London and other cities, when that painful malady had become greatly increased, and after my general health and spirits had been, what I considered, irrevocably debilitated by the most severe suffering.

In thus thankfully calling to mind the great extent of your surgical eminence, I have only to regret that I had no opportunity of applying to you in the first instance of my affliction, because, from the numerous patients who personally assured me of the various afflictions with which they had been speedily and effectually cured, I witnessed such positive proofs of your very superior treatment in all diseases of

the rectum, that I am confident I should have been relieved from two years of most tormenting malady.

With most sincere good wishes for your health and welfare, believe me ever to be,

My dear Sir,

Yours most truly,

— — — — —.

CASE XIX.

IN April, 1835, a gentleman from Guildford street applied to me, in consequence of a very painful affection about the anus, which had been gradually increasing for several months, but was then becoming rapidly worse. He had neglected applying sooner for advice from the mistaken notion of the disease being only piles. He was of a very costive habit, and experienced great pain and difficulty in passing his stools, which he had observed for some time were small in diameter. He complained of a sense of weight about the lower part of the back, and of pains

shooting down the thighs. Upon examining the part, I found a fistula on the right side of the anus, and a tumour about the size of a grape, and that the hæmorrhoidal vessels surrounding the rectum were very much distended with blood. I ordered ten leeches to be applied round the rectum, and the part to be afterwards fomented. On the following day I found he was much better, and I advised him to have the tumour removed, which he agreed to. I applied my dressing, and on the third day the tumour came off, when he expressed himself much relieved. In about ten days afterwards I dressed the fistula, and in about three weeks it was perfectly cured. A few days after I commenced introducing the rectum bougie, and in less than three months he was restored to health.

CASE XX.

IN June, 1835, a gentleman from Hertfordshire consulted me for a very painful disease of the rectum, which he described very accurately. I

suggested the necessity of an examination, and I found he was suffering very much, every time the bowels were relieved, from hæmorrhoidal excrescences, of which there were five, two of them as large as nutmegs. I told him I would undertake to perform for him a perfect cure provided he would remain in town. I commenced on the following day by applying my dressing, and on the third day the largest tumour came away. He expressed himself relieved, and on the eighth day I dressed the second, and continued my dressings till the whole were removed. In five weeks from the day he arrived in town he returned home. The following letter I received from him a few days afterwards :—

Hemel Hempsted, Aug. 1835.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM happy to inform you (and I am sure you will be equally gratified to hear) that I have been progressively improving since my return home on the 11th inst.

Although I experienced some little inconvenience for a day or two, yet, by attending to your directions, I am now very comfortable, and instead of, as formerly, being obliged to sit still for *five* or *six* hours after nature had been relieved (and then with much pain move about), I can now leave home in as *few minutes*, with the greatest comfort.

You will allow me, my dear Sir, to take this opportunity of returning you my grateful and heartfelt thanks for the very kind, judicious, and tender treatment I received while under your care, and to state that I was afflicted for nearly *twenty years* with what are termed tumours, &c., and that I had consulted many eminent surgeons, who gave me no encouragement that I should ever be cured, and only recommended me to use palliatives; but my situation became so distressing, that I had, for the last year particularly, very little ease either night or day, and was prevented attending to any business. I was at length urged to apply to you, and it gives me

great satisfaction to have it in my power to add to the numerous testimonials of gentlemen whom I know, that, with the blessing of God, on your very judicious treatment of my case, I am now able to attend to the various duties of life, without the least inconvenience.

You are quite at liberty to make use of this statement in any way you please, and I shall be most happy to communicate with any fellow sufferer, either personally or by letter, if any testimony will induce them to apply for that relief which I am satisfied they will obtain under your care.

Your much obliged and grateful servant,

P.S. It is my intention to have my case inserted in some of the provincial papers.

CASE XXI.

IN August, 1836, a nobleman consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which he considered was occasioned by tumours and piles, with which

he had been afflicted for nearly twenty years. On examination I found two hæmorrhoidal tumours, about the size of nutmegs. I prescribed for him a draught, and desired he would send for me on the following day, when the bowels were relieved; and I then applied my dressing. On the eighth day I applied my second dressing, and on the sixteenth day he returned home, perfectly cured. Previously to his leaving town I received from his Lordship the following letter:—

London, 24th Sept. 1836.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is impossible for me to leave town without writing to say how grateful I feel, that under your care, and through your kind attention, I have been speedily cured of a most distressing complaint, which I had suffered from, more or less, for upwards of *twenty years*, and which latterly became impossible to endure; and this you have effected a cure of in a fortnight, with only experiencing pain for a day and night, and

with hardly any restraint as to diet, &c. I had, previous to my seeing you, consulted several very eminent surgeons in London and the country without receiving any relief.

It will ever give me much pleasure to hear of your success through life, and I request you will be so good as to explain the nature of my case, and show this letter to any person who may wish to see it. I consider it only a duty I owe to you, for the skill and kindness I experienced whilst under your care, and at the same time hoping it may induce others to resort to you, who are suffering under similar complaints, as they are certain of a cure. With every wish for your prosperity and happiness,

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Your grateful and obliged servant,

THE following are a few out of numerous cases that have been inserted in the public journals by the patients themselves :—

(From Bell's Dispatch—February 29, 1824.)

PILES.—Having endured the most dreadful torture for upwards of thirty years, from this prevalent complaint, without gaining relief from the exertions of several surgeons, some of them of the first eminence, by whom I was attended during that time, and deriving no effectual benefit from becoming an out-patient, first of St George's, then of Middlesex Hospitals, and lastly, of Westminster Infirmary (being confined to my bed for weeks together), I am happy to state that a wonderful cure has been made of my complaint, by Mr Van Butchell, in the short space of five months, to the astonishment of myself and all my friends. The gratitude I feel to that gentleman for the success which has attended his exertions in my distressing case, and the high opinion I entertain of his mode of treating the complaint, induce

me, in the hope of serving my fellow-sufferers, to lay the above facts before the public, which will, on inquiry, be corroborated by several most respectable individuals.

RICHARD BECKFORD.

No. 32 Mark street, Paul street,
Finsbury square.

(*From the Globe and Traveller—July 2, 1825.*)

FISTULÆ.—Knowing the very great prevalence of this formidable complaint in all ranks of society, but more particularly amongst the working classes, and convinced that it always imbibers, and in numerous cases, where an efficient remedy is not promptly applied, speedily terminates the existence of the unfortunate sufferer, the Friendly Benefit Society, called “The Union,” held at Mr Davis’s, the sign of the “Dolphin,” Church street, Bethnall green, London, has been induced to give publicity to the following case (which can be well attested) of one of its members, who has been cured by Mr

Van Butchell, in order that all persons so afflicted may know to whom to apply for a safe, speedy, and permanent cure.

Thomas Wood, of No. 5 Hare marsh, St John's street, Bethnall green, having been afflicted with a Fistula for fifteen years, and during that period in a state of continual pain, and being unable to obtain a cure from the exertions of an eminent surgeon, and two others professing an ability to cure that complaint, was fortunately recommended to place himself in the hands of Mr Van Butchell, by whom, after only twenty attendances, he was perfectly cured, without restraint in diet or confinement, and is now as well as ever he was in his life.

Witness,

HENRY SPICER,

Clerk to the Friendly Society

called "The Union."

(*From the Sunday Observer—October 16, 1825.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—The extraordinary cure of these painful complaints obtained by me

under Mr Van Butchell, induces me to publish my case for the benefit of persons so afflicted, and as a grateful acknowledgment for the great blessing I have derived through the exercise of his superior skill. When my cure was commenced I had been suffering under both complaints for upwards of twenty-one years, and having been twelve months in hospitals (nine in England and three in Ireland), and obliged to keep my bed thirteen weeks, and to undergo three operations of cutting (two in England and one in Ireland) under eminent surgeons of both countries, and understanding I must submit to a fourth operation, without a promise of cure, I despaired of ever being relieved, when I was induced by strong recommendation to place myself under Mr Van Butchell, who, only after a few months' attendance, performed a perfect cure.

RICHARD BRANSON.

26 Shooters street, Commercial road.

(*From the British Press—October 25, 1825.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—Having been effectually cured of these distressing complaints by Mr Van Butchell, after not more than forty attendances, and without confinement, my sense of gratitude to him, and feeling for fellow-sufferers, induce me to give publicity to my case. Before I placed myself under Mr Van Butchell I had for twelve months been attended by an eminent surgeon, and during that time underwent three operations of cutting, and was urged by him to submit to a fourth, as the only chance of a cure; but considering the result would be equally doubtful, having derived no benefit from former operations, I had not fortitude to again undergo the excessive sufferings I had before endured, and despaired of relief; when, being assured by Mr Van Butchell that he could without hazard restore me to health, I, by the advice of my friends, relied on his skill, and I am happy to say I found his assurance realised, as I am now as well as ever I was in my life, and

shall have much pleasure in answering the personal inquiries of any female on the subject.

A MARRIED FEMALE.

N.B. Cards of my address may be had on application to Mr Van Butchell.

(*From Bell's Weekly Messenger*—November 27, 1825.)

FISTULÆ.—When an individual has been so fortunate as to have been cured of a disease of this very formidable class, by any other than the ordinary means of cutting, which it is well known is invariably attended with uncertainty as to its result, and constant hazard to life itself, it becomes an act of imperative gratitude on the part of such an individual towards the person under whose peculiar treatment so vast a benefit was obtained, and also an incumbent duty to the community, to give the utmost publicity to such a case. Impressed with these sentiments, and standing, most fortunately for me, in such a

situation as that just described, from having been perfectly cured, in the short space of two months, by Mr Van Butchell, and without cutting or confinement, of a painful fistula, with which I had been afflicted for thirty years, and for the cure of which, during that period, I occasionally placed myself under many eminent surgeons, and once (about eight years ago) submitting to the painful operation of cutting, but without the slightest effectual relief, and considering the very limited means an individual possesses of making his particular case sufficiently known through any other medium than that of a newspaper, I am induced thus to obtrude my case (which can be most respectably confirmed) on the public attention, in the expectation that it may induce some of the many at present labouring under the same painful complaint, to fly immediately to a quarter where the cure is effected, speaking comparatively, almost without pain, and the method adopted

unattended with hazard, speedy in its operation, and always unerring in its result.

JAMES THOMPSON,

French Polisher, 52 Whitecross street.

(*From the Sunday Observer—January 1, 1826.*)

PILES AND ABSCESS.—A gentleman, severely afflicted for forty-four years, has recently experienced a perfect and almost miraculous cure of this distressing complaint. During this long interval he had tried the most eminent of the faculty in vain, but was, from extreme suffering, at length induced to consult Mr Van Butchell, who has perfectly cured him of this long-standing, and, as he always considered, constitutional complaint, in the short space of eight weeks. A principle of gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, as well as humanity to his fellow-sufferers, induces this advertisement.

Real sufferers may see the party by applying any morning before 10 o'clock, to Z. Z.,

No. 1 Gainford place, White Conduit fields,
Pentonville.

(From the Sunday Times—April 23, 1826.)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—From the very great pain I have endured, and the wonderful cure that has been effected by Mr Van Butchell, I am induced, for the benefit of others so afflicted, to give publicity to my case. Having been afflicted with those painful complaints for more than ten years, during which period I was attended by several eminent surgeons, whose best endeavours afforded me no relief, I had nearly given up all hopes of a cure; but fortunately hearing of several cures performed by Mr Van Butchell, I was induced to place myself under his care, when, to my great satisfaction, after no more than forty-five attendances, and without confinement, I have the happiness to acknowledge myself perfectly cured.

J. BARKER,

Market-gardener, Fulham, Middlesex.

(*From the Times—April 9, 1829.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—After suffering for two years and a half from these dreadful complaints, and gaining no relief from the attendance of an eminent surgeon during that period, I fortunately applied to Mr Van Butchell, who, in the short space of one month, effected a perfect cure of my distressing case, which I am desirous should be made public, for the benefit of fellow-sufferers, and in testimony of my gratitude to him for his great attention and skill manifested in my cure.

J. B.

Eastwood, near Rochford, Essex.

N.B. Cards of my address may be had of Mr Chevill, No. 2 New North street, Red Lionsquare.

(*From the Oxford Journal—June 25, 1826.*)

FISTULÆ, PILES, &c.—Catherine Burley returns her grateful thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who enabled her to apply to Mr Van Butchell, and begs to inform them that she has

returned completely cured of fistulæ, piles, and stricture, of more than eight years' standing, and takes this opportunity of expressing her most heart-felt gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, for his great kindness and attention during a gratuitous attendance of eleven weeks.

Horse and Jockey lane, Oxford.

(*From the Examiner—July 16, 1826.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—The following case is one of recent occurrence, and an undoubted proof of the abilities of Mr Van Butchell, which can be attested by a gentleman of respectability, on application to him, at Mr Gill's, chemist, Charing cross, who is induced to give it this publicity, with the hope that it may be of benefit to many individuals so afflicted, by informing them where to apply for a safe, speedy, and permanent cure:—

“Having been afflicted with these dreadful complaints for more than eighteen years, during which period I was under the care of different eminent surgeons, and underwent five operations

without effect, I mentioned the circumstance to a friend, who told me Mr Van Butchell was particularly distinguished for the cure of these complaints by a mode of treatment peculiar to himself. I was therefore induced to place myself under his care, and, in the short space of six weeks, without cutting, caustic, confinement, or restraint of diet, I have the happiness to acknowledge myself now perfectly cured.

“J. P. C.”

(*From the Sunday Observer—June 11, 1826.*)

FISTULÆ.—Having been afflicted with this dreadful complaint for more than fourteen years, during which period I placed myself under the care of several eminent surgeons, without obtaining any relief, on the contrary, my case daily became worse, I had nearly given up all hopes of a cure, when fortunately hearing of Mr Van Butchell, I determined to place myself under him, to obtain some mitigation of my sufferings; when, to my great satisfaction, after only fifty-four attendances, and without confine-

ment, I have the happiness to acknowledge myself perfectly cured.

JOHN BRAIN, aged 63 years.

No. 5, Orange street, Leicester square.

(*From the Times—May 17, 1827.*)

A CARD.—To the afflicted with piles, fistulæ, &c.—The writer of this Card having, for upwards of fifteen years, endured the most indescribable sufferings from piles, without obtaining relief from any of the faculty to whom he had applied during that period, is desirous of giving publicity to a most unexpected and perfect cure effected on him by the superior skill and peculiar treatment of Mr Van Butchell. Feelings of the most heart-felt gratitude to that gentleman, justice to his merit, and a hope that a public statement of the cure may prove beneficial to fellow-sufferers, are the motives which induce the writer to make known his case ; and at the same time to declare he will with pleasure answer [any inquiries made by persons similarly afflicted, by addressing a

line, post paid, to A. W., 11 Roll's buildings, Fetter lane, stating what evening they can call after nine o'clock, and giving a day's notice.

(From the Sunday Times—July 2, 1827.)

A CARD.—To females afflicted with piles.—The writer having been for upwards of eight years a great sufferer from the above complaint, during which period she had been attended, at times, by six eminent surgeons, had been a patient in one of the hospitals, and had undergone the painful operation of cutting, without obtaining relief, is happy to acknowledge herself indebted to Mr Van Butchell for a perfect cure of this very painful complaint. Gratitude to that gentleman induces her thus publicly to announce her willingness to answer the inquiries to any females similarly afflicted, on their applying for cards of her address at Mr Gill's, chemist, 35 Charing cross.

H. PRATT.

(*From the Daily Advertiser—November 24, 1827.*)

FISTULÆ.—John Chamberlain returns his grateful thanks to the officers of the parish of St John's, Wapping, for enabling him to apply to Mr Van Butchell, and informs them that he has been perfectly cured of fistulæ, from which he had suffered for a long time, after having been discharged from one of the hospitals in the suburbs of London, as incurable; and he takes this opportunity of saying that he cannot sufficiently express his gratitude to Mr Van Butchell for his extreme kindness and attention during an attendance of seven weeks. In justice to Mr Van Butchell, John Chamberlain deems it necessary to say that the truth of the foregoing statement can be avouched by the officers of the above-named parish, he having been examined by the surgeons of that parish since the cure was effected.

No. 3, Upper Well alley, Wapping.

Sometime afterwards I received the following letter with reference to the case of J. Chamberlain :—

Bosbury, January 1828.

HONOURED SIR,

I AM desired by the parish officers to return you their sincere thanks for the great cure you performed gratuitously, for John Chamberlain, a parishioner of Bosbury, residing in St John of Wapping, after he had been discharged from an hospital incurable. With the highest respect and esteem, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM BUTT,

Assistant Overseer of Bosbury.

(*From the Times*—December 14, 1827.)

PILES.—A naval officer having been afflicted with piles for more than seven years, and which had latterly increased to such a degree as to prevent his using much exercise, was induced to put himself under the care of Mr Van Butchell,

who, in the short space of one month, effected a perfect cure. In testimony of Mr Van Butchell's superior treatment of this disease, and his very great and kind attention, he is induced to give publicity to his case.

N.B.—Cards of address may be had on application to Mr Van Butchell.

(*From the Times—February 16, 1828.*)

FISTULÆ.—An officer in the army having been afflicted for several years with the above-named complaint, which had increased to such a degree as to prevent his taking exercise, after undergoing the painful operation of cutting without relief, was induced, at the recommendation of a highly respectable chemist, to place himself under the care of Mr Van Butchell, by whose treatment and attention to his complaint, for the short space of six weeks, his perfect recovery to health was effected.

Cards of address may be had of Mr Gill, chemist, Charing cross.

(From the Observer—March 9, 1828.)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—Mr Van Butchell having, without cutting or confinement, in the short space of three weeks, cured me of the above-named complaints (under which I had laboured for nearly four years), I am prompted by gratitude to him publicly to state, that I had previously consulted several surgeons, who pronounced my cure impossible, without submitting to the painful operation of cutting, to which dangerous experiment I had always been averse, and therefore despaired of ever regaining my health, till, on applying to Mr Van Butchell, to whom I was strongly recommended, he, in the short space above-mentioned, realized his assurances by performing a perfect cure.

THOMAS EAGLES,

Butcher and Salesman, Newhaven, Sussex.

(*From the Monday Observer—March 23, 1828.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—Having been afflicted with these dreadful complaints for some time, during which period I was attended by an eminent surgeon without obtaining relief, and being 67 years of age, I had given up all hopes of a cure, when fortunately hearing of Mr Van Butchell, I placed myself in his hands, and am happy to say he has effected a perfect cure, without any confinement or restraint of diet. Gratitude to him, and good-will to fellow-sufferers, induce me to publish this fact, which will with pleasure be attested by

WILLIAM FOWLER.

Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

(*From Bell's Dispatch—June 29, 1828.*)

FISTULÆ AND PILES.—A tradesman, upon whom an extraordinary cure has been effected by Mr Van Butchell, is desirous of testifying his gratitude to that gentleman, by publicly acknowledging himself perfectly cured of the above

complaints in only forty-eight attendances, after having been afflicted above thirty years, during which period he had endured the greatest pain, without being able to obtain relief elsewhere.

W. SMALE.

25 Greenfield street, Commercial road.

(*From the Times—May 4, 1829.*)

FISTULÆ.—With the deepest sense of gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, B. Gray is desirous of offering to fellow-sufferers his testimony to the great skill manifested by that surgeon, in the cure of a most distressing case of fistula, under which he had laboured about eighteen years, and for which he had been attended by surgeons of the first eminence, who, failing to relieve him, his sufferings would only have terminated with his life, but for his fortunate application to Mr Van Butchell, who perfectly cured him with only a few months' attendance. For a corro-

boration of the above statement application may be made to

B. GRAY.

Dorset street, Dorset square.

(*From the John Bull—July 27, 1828.*)

PILES AND TUMOUR.—T. Weller offers his grateful acknowledgments to Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur, for the perfect cure of the above complaints, with which he had been afflicted more than ten years; and begs to say he shall feel most happy in stating to any person similarly afflicted, the attention and skill he experienced from Mr Van Butchell, in the gratuitous cure of his distressing case, which is known to the Rev. Mr Harrison, of Lewes, who has kindly permitted a reference to him for the truth of the above statement.

Friar's walk, Lewes, Sussex.

(*From the Morning Herald—January 7, 1831.*)

A CARD.—To those afflicted with stricture.—
Having suffered for upwards of three years from a stricture of the urethra, for which I was ineffectually attended by several surgeons of eminence, and gaining no relief from being in the hospital for five weeks, having been confined to my bed for fifteen weeks after leaving it, I feel compelled by gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, surgeon, publicly to state that I have obtained a perfect cure through that gentleman's peculiar mode of treatment.

R. B. C.

Cards of my address may be had on application to Mr Ryder, chemist, 17 Marchmont street, Burton crescent.

(*From the Sunday Atlas—July 1, 1831.*)

A CARD.—To persons afflicted with fistulæ, &c.—Alexander Thompson returns his sincere thanks to those friends who enabled him to apply to Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur,

and informs them that he has been perfectly cured of fistulæ, from which he had suffered upwards of three years, during which time he had been in the hospital twice, and had undergone the operation of cutting eight times, without obtaining a cure. For a corroboration of the above statement application may be made to Mr Craddock, chemist and druggist, 6 Store street, Bedford square.

(From the Cornwall Advertiser—April 6, 1832.)

FISTULÆ.—An address to those afflicted.—Samuel Harvey is happy to state, for the benefit of persons suffering under the above complaint, that he has been cured of that painful disease, without cutting, in less than a month, by Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur, after being assured by two eminent surgeons that a cure was impossible without cutting. His delight at, and gratitude for the cure, render him anxious to make it as public as his means will allow; therefore he will, with pleasure, answer the

inquiries of any sufferer applying to him free of postage.

SAMUEL HARVEY.

Chasewater, near Truro, Cornwall.

(*From the Stamford Mercury—April 17, 1835.*)

To persons afflicted with PILES and TUMOURS.
—The advertiser having been for many years afflicted with the above complaints, and gaining little or no relief from the attendance of the faculty to whom he had applied, adopts this method of giving publicity to a perfect cure effected on him by the superior skill and peculiar treatment of Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur. Impressed with the deepest sense of gratitude to that worthy gentleman, and in justice to his unquestionable merit, the advertiser will be most happy to answer the inquiries of any fellow-sufferer, on application to T. P. Bedford Cottage, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

(*From the Nottingham Journal—November 7, 1834.*)

FISTULÆ.—Richard Lee returns his grateful thanks to the inhabitants of the parish of Gedling, and his many other respectable friends, for enabling him to apply to Mr Van Butchell, surgeon, for his professional assistance ; and informs them that he has been perfectly cured, by Mr Van Butchell, of fistula, from which he had suffered for a long time, after having been cut twice, and various other means used by several eminent surgeons, to no effect. He takes this opportunity of saying that he cannot sufficiently express his gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, for his extreme kindness and attention, during a period of twenty-five days under his skilful care.

For a corroboration of the above statement application may be made to Richard Lee, Carlton, near Nottingham.

(*From the Daily Advertiser—July 2, 1835.*)

To persons afflicted with FISTULÆ and TUMOURS.—Having been for some time a sufferer from the above complaints, I fortunately was induced, by an advertisement in the *Stamford Mercury*, to place myself under the care of Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur, who, I am happy to acknowledge, effected a perfect cure of my distressing case in the short space of seven weeks, without confinement: gratitude to that gentleman for the relief afforded me by his peculiar skill and kind treatment, induces me publicly to announce my willingness to answer the inquiries of any fellow-sufferer, on application, if by letter, post paid, to Thomas Shippey, saddler, Market place, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

(From the Sunday Observer—July, 1836.)

FISTULÆ.—Having been afflicted with that dreadful complaint upwards of three years, during which period I was attended by an eminent surgeon without obtaining relief, I had given up all hopes of a cure, when fortunately hearing of Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur, I placed myself under his care, and in the space of two months, I am happy to say, he effected a perfect cure, without any confinement or restraint of diet. Gratitude to him and good-will to fellow-sufferers induce me to publish this fact, which will with pleasure be attested by Andrew Anderson, No. 36 Lower East Smithfield.

(From the Observer—September, 1836.)

To persons afflicted with TUMOURS, &c.—The parent of a child only seven years of age, who was afflicted upwards of three years with tumour of the rectum, and attended during that period

by surgeons of eminence in the country, from whom he derived no benefit, is desirous of thus publicly testifying his gratitude to Mr Van Butchell, surgeon accoucheur, for a perfect cure of his child's complaint, in the short space of ten days, without cutting or confinement.

Particulars of this case may be known by applying, postage free, to Mr Wm. Bunt, Wivelscomb, Somersetshire.—20th August, 1836.

ADDITIONAL CASES.

IN July 1836, a Captain in the Army, about 30 years of age, consulted me on a painful disease of the rectum, from which he had been suffering above two years. On examination, I found it nearly filled up by a fungus growth, which, in some parts, was of a spongy nature, and in others of a more indurated or warty substance. There was also much ulceration in the gut, and a copious discharge of matter, but I found that I could essentially serve him, and told him if he would reside near me I would afford him the relief his case required. He did so, and I commenced my treatment, the result of which may be ascertained by the following letter :—

MY DEAR SIR,

I take this opportunity of expressing to you how gratefully I feel all the kindness and

attention I have experienced under your roof, and my perfect conviction that, had I been fortunate enough to have applied to you in an earlier stage of my complaint, I should ere now have ceased to suffer; as, not only have I never derived any benefit except from your kind care and zeal, but when under the care of others I have rapidly got worse, and, as you know, I have tried all the first people in London.

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Ever faithfully yours, much obliged,

Junior United Service Club.

Subsequently, I received the following letter from the mother of Captain —:—

DEAR SIR,

Enclosed you will find a second cheque, accompanied with my best acknowledgments. Allow me to observe I am very sensible that skill, kindness, and attention, cannot be compensated by mere money; and I shall always

feel myself your debtor for all these, and both my son and myself will be most happy to express this to any and every one whom you may think proper to refer to either of us. I can with truth state that, during the long period my son was under the treatment of the most eminent surgeons of London, he derived no benefit whatever from any of them; and that to you alone, under Providence, he owes his restoration to his present state of health. For the liberal hospitality, the constant attention, and unwearied kindness he experienced whilst under your roof, permit me, in his name and my own, to offer you the sincerest thanks; and to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your truly obliged,

C. S——.

Margaret street, Cavendish square.

In November, 1836, a gentleman about 38 years of age, who had been afflicted six years, con-

sulted me for a disease of the rectum, which he had been told was fistula. On examination I found, when his bowels were relieved, in addition to the fistula, he suffered great pain from two hæmorrhoidal excrescences, each about the size of a nutmeg. I undertook to cure him, provided he would reside near me, and on the following day I applied my dressing, which occasioned him some inconvenience. In the evening I prescribed an opiate, which soon gave him relief. The excrescence came away on the third day, and on the tenth I applied my second dressing, which came away at the usual period. In a few days afterwards I dressed the fistula; and when the dressing came away he felt very much relieved. Within a few weeks he was perfectly cured, and shortly afterwards I received from him the following letter :—

MY DEAR SIR,

The recent cure you have effected, after the long suffering I have endured, induces me to request that you will give my case publicity

in any way you may think proper, as I feel it a duty I owe to yourself and to society ; and I trust it may prove the means of removing any prejudices in the minds of those similarly afflicted. After six years' suffering, finding I could obtain no relief from the various surgeons I had placed myself under, and conceiving my case almost hopeless, I was induced to apply to you ; and the deep debt of gratitude I owe for the skilful and unremitting attention received at your hands will never be effaced from my memory, having been restored from a life of misery to a state of comfort, to which I had been for years a stranger. It will afford me the greatest pleasure to satisfy the inquiries of any person you may refer to me on the subject ; and with sincerest gratitude for your kindness, added to my warmest wishes for your success,

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. T.

— Terrace, Brompton.

In May 1837, a Mr F., a retired tradesman, in his 56th year, consulted me for a disease of the rectum, which, on examination, I found to be deep-seated fistula and very contracted stricture, together with considerable inflammatory action about the anus. His general health had been greatly impaired by his local complaint, and he seemed almost hopeless of a cure being within the range of probability without the dreaded operation of cutting; however, I felt confident I could encourage him to the contrary, and the following letter will show how far my assurances were realized:—

DEAR SIR,

Feeling indebted to your skill for the cure of a fistula and stricture with which I had been afflicted upwards of three years, I cannot refrain from offering you my sincere acknowledgments for the kind attention you paid to my painful case, and the experienced manner in which you treated it, enabling me so speedily to obtain a cure, after being in the hands of my

medical attendants more than two years, and finding my complaint increase with the dread of supposing a surgical operation to be necessary. I cannot but feel grateful to that Providence which directed me to apply to you, and thankful for your gentle mode of treatment, which even a child might have borne without complaint; and by which I am restored to health, and much better than I was for years before I detected the nature of my disease. I beg you will give publicity to my sentiments of gratitude and respect due for the kindness I experienced while under your hospitable roof, and for the health I now enjoy, in the hope that any sufferer similarly afflicted may be induced to apply to the same source, where the nature of such diseases are understood, and that I may have the opportunity of stating to them any particulars required.

I am, dear Sir,

Your very grateful and benefited friend,

The following case is written by the patient, a lady :—

“I am thirty-five years of age, have been a widow ten years, and I had, generally speaking, enjoyed good health up to the summer of 1831, when I became delicate, and suffered occasionally from internal pain and debility. In the autumn of 1831, I was visited with a severe domestic affliction, and my health appeared worse, which I attributed to that cause; and in the spring of 1832, I experienced another heavy visitation, and from then until January 1833, I continued extremely ill, suffering greatly from pain in my back, and what I thought to be piles. I was confined to my bed for three weeks, and endured extreme pain with an abscess which was opened by a skilful surgeon; but which did not heal from that time until November 1836, a period of four years. My sufferings during the time were very great, and I had almost the constant medical advice of one of the first surgeons in London without receiving any benefit. My disease had

by this time become a complicated case of fistula, tumours, and stricture, when I was induced by an advertisement (having found every previous treatment unavailing) to seek assistance from Mr Van Butchell. For six weeks I had the benefit of that gentleman's attendance daily, at the expiration of which period it was necessary for me to see him only twice a week ; and after a very short time I was perfectly cured, and am now in the full enjoyment of perfect health."

In December 1836 this lady arrived in town and sent for me. I examined her case, and found she was labouring under a complicated disease of the rectum,—viz. fistula, stricture, and two small tumours, which I undertook to cure. On the following day, after the bowels had been moved, I applied my dressing to the tumours, which came away on the third day, when she expressed herself much relieved. I then applied my dressing to the fistula, which produced considerable pain in consequence of its being very deeply seated. I attended her daily for about six weeks, when the fistula was

perfectly cured, and the stricture I afterwards removed by the use of the rectum bougie. I some time afterwards received from her the following letter:—

MY DEAR SIR,

I feel myself called upon by gratitude to acknowledge the complete cure you have made in my distressing and painful case of fistula, stricture, and tumours, after I had failed to obtain relief from two eminent surgeons, whose care I was under for nearly four years. I was in a state of extreme debility, and unable to walk or sit without great pain, when I was induced to apply to you, and by your skill and attention, I am happy to say, I am once more restored to perfect health, greatly to the surprise of a numerous circle of friends. I beg you will not hesitate to refer any lady to me for full particulars of my case.

And remain, my dear Sir,

Your ever grateful and obliged,

E. I. C.

CRITICAL REMARKS

ON THE

FIRST EDITION.

WE earnestly recommend this volume to the attention of all persons ; those who are unfortunately afflicted with any of the diseases of which it treats will find how they may obtain relief, without the uncertainty attending on operation, and with comparatively little pain ; while those whom Providence has spared so dreadful a visitation may learn how to avoid such distressing complaints. * * * It abounds with interesting cases, which are attested by the patients themselves, who, under Mr Van Butchell's care, have been restored to health, when every other treatment had failed.—*West Kent Guardian*, August, 1837.

This volume presents to us a number of illustrations of his singular success under circumstances that would have induced despair in any professor of less mastery, or less accustomed to accomplish cures where cures seem impossible. The statements here made are most convincing, and place beyond doubt the superiority of the treatment to which they refer.—*Court Journal*, August, 1837.

The great surgical skill and attention of Mr Van Butchell to certain complaints of a most painful nature are well known. The volume before us contains a record of his practice, and a concise but simple treatise on the subject.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger*, August, 1837.

To all who are affected with either of the complaints of which it treats, we would recommend the perusal of the work, as exemplifying the superiority of Mr Van Butchell's treatment over the ordinary method. * * * The cases, some of which are detailed by the patients themselves, attest his singular success under most extraordinary circumstances, and in many instances where the sufferer had previously been shut out from all hope of recovery.—*Shipping Gazette*, August 23rd, 1837.

This work contains some extraordinary cases, and ought to be perused by every one afflicted with these painful disorders.—*Guide*, September 9th, 1837.

We have to draw a wide distinction between this eminent and regularly educated surgeon and ordinary advertising professors. But as his father was eminently successful in the treatment of these maladies, the experience which the author had must have added to a long period of regular study, well qualifying him to write as well as practise.—*Gardener's Gazette*, September 9th, 1837.

This is a clever and clearly written treatise on an extensive and painful class of diseases, calculated to convey to the mind of the patient a clear idea of the peculiar nature of his complaint, and the best mode of its treatment.—*Brighton Herald*, September 16th, 1837.

We should have had some hesitation in noticing this work, did we not know that Mr Van Butchell is, in his department, the most successful practitioner of the age;

and that, in calling public attention to his system, we shall doubtless be pointing out to many persons the most certain and effectual means of relief.—*Cheltenham Journal*, October 2nd, 1837.

The author appears to have had long experience, extensive practice, and great success in the treatment of hæmorrhoidal affections, the result of which is here published in a brief form, and language intelligible to the least scientific reader. * * * It must excite a feeling of deep interest and gratification in the minds of all suffering from these afflictions, to learn from Mr Van Butchell's testimonials that cases of thirty and forty years' standing have yielded to his practice.—*Morning Advertiser*, October 4th, 1837.

A very unpretending practical work, free from professional display and learned technicalities; intelligible, consequently, to the large mass of the community, and so explanatory of the general symptoms of the diseases enumerated, that the patients, for the most part, might consult with the author without a personal interview, and yet have the full benefit of his experience.—*Bath Herald*, October 7th, 1837.

A register of valuable facts and observations made by the author during a long and successful practice in the painful and distressing diseases of whose cure it treats. * * * The numerous cases adduced by the author of cures effected, even under the most inauspicious circumstances, by his mode of treatment, are such as must satisfy even the most incredulous of its efficacy.—*Cheltenham Chronicle*, October 12th, 1837.

How valuable a member of society is that man who can bring human art to the alleviation of suffering humanity. That death is certain to us all admits no doubt, and the skill, therefore, of the practitioner hath at length its boundary. But there are many complaints that are worse than death, and amongst them that of fistula may be classed. Mr Van Butchell has paid considerable attention to all those complaints which are allied to, or engender fistula,—and we have heard from a private source on which we can rely, that he has entered on a most successful practice for its cure: a very favourable feature in his remedies is, that he neither adopts cutting or confinement, which will be seen in numerous cases that are cited in the present volume; it is, in fact, a familiar exposition of the practice which Mr Van Butchell professes to follow.—*Sherborne, Dorchester, and Taunton Journal*, 12th October, 1837.

The sufferings occasioned to our species by the class of diseases to which this little treatise relates, make any attempt to point out the means of their alleviation and removal a welcome present to humanity. Mr Van Butchell's essay, however, deserves a higher eulogium, since its perusal will convince the reader that the tremendous operation unusually practised for the eradication of the complaint is unnecessary, and need no longer alarm the patient by its anticipation. The author proposes a mode of treatment at once more certain in its ultimate effects, and divested of all the terrors of its pain, and its successful use is demonstrated by the numerous cases which the author has cited of its efficacy.—*Gloucestershire Chronicle*, Oct. 14th, 1837.

This work contains numerous illustrations of Mr Van Butchell's singular success even where the case had been considered hopeless by some of the most eminent of the profession. Among the cases we observe that of a gentleman residing in our own county, who had been afflicted for upwards of 20 years, and who states that he was perfectly cured by Mr Van Butchell's treatment, and that he shall be happy to be referred to by any person suffering under similar complaints, to attest Mr Van Butchell's extraordinary skill.—*Hertford Reformer*, November 7th, 1837.

The author has evidently given much time and study to this difficult branch of his profession, and has met with eminent success in cases that have baffled the art of the first surgeons. The testimonies of numerous patients, some of the highest rank, to the kindness and skill of his practice, appear in his work. Of the nature and symptoms of the disorders a clear definition is given; and the mode of treatment differs from that generally pursued, in avoiding the most severe and dangerous operations. * * * Mr Van Butchell deserves the thanks of his countrymen for the services he has rendered to human nature, in mitigating its sorrows; and we are happy to hear that a very handsome and valuable piece of plate has been presented to him by a large number of his patients, as an expression of their gratitude and esteem.—*Young Men's Magazine*, Nov. 1837.

Of this work we hear, from those best entitled to speak upon the subject, high commendations, as it has been transmitted to us by one who states that he is “under

great obligations to Mr Van Butchell, having been cured by him, after being afflicted upwards of six years, and been under several eminent surgeons who could afford no relief."—*Brighton Gazette*, Nov. 30th, 1837.

It is only very long and extensive practice that could have enabled Mr Van Butchell to have published a work of this kind, now before us, which contains an endless number of cases, of not only an interesting nature, but of importance to every one, from patients themselves, who have been restored to sound health by Mr Van Butchell's successful treatment in cases of the most obstinate and determined character, and where other surgical skill has failed."—*Blackwood's Lady's Magazine*, Dec. 1837.

It is unfortunately too much the practice with medical writers to load their literary efforts with all the technicalities of the profession, into this error, we are happy to say, Mr Van Butchell has not fallen, and the result is a very concise and interesting treatise on the various methods pursued in his practice. From the perusal of this book we have risen, strongly impressed with the author's capacity as a surgeon, and his well-timed intentions as a man; and the various attestations to be found in the volume afford sufficient testimony (if proof were wanting) of the great degree of success which has attended his extensive practice; the many testimonials in the volume at once proclaim the eminent position he occupies, and must be most gratifying to all well-wishers of their fellow-creatures.—*Commercial Advertiser*, Jan. 1838.

